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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
08/785,559	01/17/97	WEINRICH	A 9276.2

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WM01/0406

EXAMINER

HAVAN, T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED: 04/06/01

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

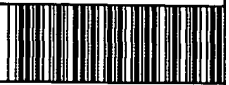
**Response to Rule 312  
Communication**

Application No.  
**08/785,559**

Applicant(s)  
**Weinreich et al.**

Examiner  
**Thu Thao Havan**


Group Art Unit  
**2672**



☐ The petition filed on \_\_\_\_\_ under 37 CFR 1.312(b) is granted. The paper has been forwarded to the examiner for consideration on the merits.

☒ The amendment filed on Dec 13, 1999 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- ☒ entered.
- ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention (Order 3311).
- ☐ disapproved. See explanation below.
- ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

  
**WAYNE AMSBURY**  
**PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER**

Art Unit: 2771

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. The application has been amended as follows: The drawings filed on January 1, 1997 are acceptable subject to correction of the informalities indicated on the attached "Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review," PTO-948. In order to avoid abandonment of this application, correction is required.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants searching for a parser connected to the mail server to process incoming e-mails and the database server is responsive to the parser processing to manipulate a record in the database and selected ones of said plurality of records are linked to selected other ones of said plurality of records by a confirmed defined relationship or a denied defined relationship, in combination with the other elements of the claims, was not disclosed by, would not have been obvious over, nor would have

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been fairly suggested by the prior art of record. The dependent claims being further limiting to the independent claim, definite, and enabled by the Specification are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

#### **Conclusion**

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

5. Bly et al., U.S. Patent 5,220,657 is considered as the most relevant because it disclosed the updating of local copy of shared data in a collaborative system. However, Bly's patent did not incorporate a confirmed defined relationship or a denied defined relationship in an email system.

6. Bly et al., U.S. Patent 5,008,853 is considered relevant because it disclosed the representation of collaborative multi-user activities relative to shared structured data objects in a networked workstation environment. However, Bly's patent did not incorporate a confirmed defined relationship or a denied defined relationship in an email system.

7. Kuzma, US Patent 5,781,901 is considered relevant because it disclosed the sender requests an e-mail from a recipient.